



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN INDIAN-ADMINISTERED KASHMIR

June 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024

### SUMMARY

In June 2024, Indian authorities continued to commit grave human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK). Indian forces killed at least sixteen people, including custodial killings by torture. Indian authorities continued their ongoing campaigns of mass arbitrary detention and property expropriation. Indian authorities approved the counter-terror prosecution of author Arundhati Roy and international law professor Showkat Hussain for 2010 speech. The Indian administration continued to target pro-self-determination groups and human rights defenders, including Advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom.

Numerous Kashmiri journalists, human rights defenders, political activists, and dissenters continue to be arbitrarily detained. Emblematic cases include those of human rights defenders Khurram Parvez—illegally imprisoned for over two and half years (985 days), journalist Sajad Gul—illegally imprisoned for over two and a half years (941 days) and academic Abul Ala Fazili—illegally imprisoned for over two years (839) days.

*Note: Due to ongoing repression by Indian authorities, key developments in the human rights situation in IAK have gone unreported. To the extent reported, Indian officials label pro-self-determination or pro-human rights activity as "terrorist" activity in IAK. Indian authorities typically label any victim of state violence or violations (and not just armed resistance fighters) as a "terrorist" or "militant" and any dissenter in IAK as a "terrorist," "secessionist," "militant," "overground worker" (or "OGW"), "hybrid militant," "hybrid terrorist," "terrorist associate" or "militant associate." If a violation occurs near the Line of Control (LOC), the victim is labeled a "foreign terrorist," "intruder," or "infiltrator." If the individual is a journalist, scholar, or human rights defender, they are often labeled a "narrative terrorist" or "white collar terrorist." These unsubstantiated, demonizing and dehumanizing labels are used to legitimate violations against civilians, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, raids, and the forcible taking of property.*

### KILLINGS AND EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE

#### Cordon and search operations (CASOs) led to at least ten killings

On June 3, 2024, Indian forces [killed](#) Riyaz Ahmad Dar of Kakapora and Rayees Ahmad in Nihama, Pulwama district and labelled them "terrorists."

On June 4, 2024, Indian forces arbitrarily detained, [tortured and killed](#) Imtiyaz Ahmad Pala of Bandina, Pulwama district in custody after a CASO in Grawgund, Pulwama district and labeled him a "terrorist."

On June 12, 2024, Indian forces [killed two people](#) in the Doda district and labelled them "terrorists."

On June 12, 2024, Indian forces killed [two people](#) in Saida Sukhal, Kathua district and labelled them “terrorists.”

On June 17, 2024, Indian forces [killed](#) Umar Akbar Lone of Wussan Pattan, Aragam, Bandipora district and labelled him a “terrorist.”

On June 19, 2024 Indian forces killed [two people](#) in Watergam, Baramulla district and labelled them “terrorists.”

#### Extrajudicial killings continued, including near the LOC

On June 8, 2024, Indian forces [killed](#) Vasudeva of Akhnoor near the LOC in Samba district.

On June 23, 2024, Indian forces [killed two people](#) at the LOC in Gohallan, Uri, Baramulla district and labelled them “terrorists.”

On June 26, Indian forces killed [three people](#) in the Doda district and labelled them “terrorists.”

#### **VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

##### Indian authorities continued reprisals for disfavored speech and alleged association

On June 8, 2024, Indian authorities [suspended](#) Faiz Ahmad, a teacher, for speaking about conditions at the Government Middle School Draman in Bhatyas, Doda district. Authorities have explicitly recommended criminal legal action against anyone whose speech is deemed by the state to be a “[false complaint](#).” On the same date, the Indian authorities [terminated](#) police constables Abdul Rehman Dar and Ghulam Rasool Bhat, teacher Shabir Ahmad Wani and lineman Anayatullah Shah Pirzada for alleged “terrorist” associations.

On June 14, 2024, Indian authorities [authorized the prosecution](#) under the [UAPA](#) of novelist Arundhati Roy and international law scholar Sheikh Showkat Hussain for speeches at a 2010 New Delhi conference on the right to self-determination. On June 29, 2024, the UN Human Rights Office called on India to [dismiss the charges](#).

##### Indian authorities arrested a Kashmiri man for social media post about cricket match

On June 21, 2024, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Faheem Qureshi in Bangalore for posts on X (formerly Twitter) about the 2024 T20 Cricket World Cup. Indian police continue to [target online expression](#) as a “medium of sustaining terrorism and separatism.”

#### **REPRESSION TARGETING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

##### Indian authorities continued incapacitation of J&K High Court Bar Association, recognized replacement body

On June 25, 2024, the Jammu and Kashmir administration [obstructed elections](#) and the continued operation of the J&K High Court Bar Association (JKHCBA) for a fifth consecutive year citing the provision of legal aid to alleged “anti-national elements.” On June 29, 2024, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh [granted](#)

[recognition](#) to a new lawyers body, Kashmir Advocates' Association, in the continuation of a pattern of replacing civil society institutions in IAK with state-sponsored groups.

#### Indian authorities arbitrarily detained leading human rights lawyer Mian Abdul Qayoom

On June 25, 2024, Indian authorities again [arrested](#) Advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom, a senior Kashmiri human rights lawyer and the former president of the JKHCBA, after decades of persecution and repeated detention.

### **ARBITRARY DETENTIONS**

#### Indian authorities continued their ongoing campaign of raids and mass arbitrary detention

On June 7, 2024, the Indian authorities re-imposed [house arrest](#) on Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the designated sermon-giver at Jamia Masjid, Srinagar.

On June 8, 2024, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) [raided](#) the house of Ahamadullah Malla of Dalal Mohalla, Nawab Bazar, Srinagar.

On June 18, 2024, the Indian authorities [arrested three individuals](#), including a juvenile, from Darman, Jhai, Bhanderwah, Doda district for allegedly “assisting terrorists.”

On June 30, 2024, India’s National Investigation Agency (NIA) [raided](#) multiple locations in the Rajouri district.

### **POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DISEMPOWERMENT, DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE**

#### Indian court upheld banning of pro-self-determination parties

On June 22, 2024, the a special UAPA tribunal upheld the Indian government’s [banning](#) of the Muslim League Jammu and Kashmir (Masrat Alam) and Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir.

Please also see this [analysis](#) on how new quota policies for employment and education (discussed in our [May 2024](#), [March 2024](#) and [February 2024](#) updates) systematically further the disempowerment of Muslims in IAK while expanding structural advantages to pro-BJP elements.

### **TAKING OF PROPERTY AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY**

#### Indian authorities continued to expropriate property

On June 3, 2024, Indian authorities [destroyed two houses](#) in Nihama, Pulwama district and killed two people, Riyaz Ahmad Dar of Kakapora and Rayees Ahmad.

On June 14, 2024, the Indian authorities [announced](#) expanded collective punishment measures focused on the Jammu region, including expropriating the property of, imposing counter-terror charges on and denying employment opportunities to family members of “terrorist symapthisers.”

On June 27, 2024, the [Indian authorities expropriated](#) properties of Bashir Ahmad Ganie, Mehraj ud din Lone, Ghulam Mohd Yattoo, Abdul Rehman Bhat and Abdul Rashid Lone of Baramulla district who allegedly reside in Pakistan-administered Kashmir (PAK).

On June 15, 2024, a [court](#) designated Gh. Hassan Reshi of Baderkoot , Baramulla district (allegedly in PAK) a “proclaimed offender” under Indian counter-terror laws.

## **STATE SURVEILLANCE**

On June 11, 2024, Indian authorities [conducted a high-level meeting](#) announcing an expansion of checkpoints and an intensification of CASOs and “anti-militants” operations.

## **COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT**

On June 19, 2024, the Indian forces [forcibly closed](#) two schools in Hadipora, Rafiabab, Baramulla district.

On June 30, 2024, the Indian forces [conducted](#) a CASO in Afarwat, Gulmarg, Baramulla district.

## **VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

### Forced Indianization and erasure/replacement of history continued

On June 14, 2024, Indian authorities made the Indian national anthem [compulsory](#) during morning assembly at educational institutions in IAK.

On June 18, 2024, the Indian National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) made several material changes to [political science textbooks](#), including rewriting the international legal status of Jammu and Kashmir and the history of Article 370 of India’s constitution.

The Indian Army and corporate sponsors [launched a multimedia spectacle](#) in Boniyar, Baramulla district, projecting an ahistorical, pro-Hindutva, pro-Indian military narrative and history.

### Indian authorities sought to demolish mosque in IAK

On June 30, 2024, the Indian administration [sought to demolish](#) a mosque in Kalyanpur Padri, Kathua district.

## **PUBLIC STATEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS**

On June 24, 2024, [Amnesty International and Front Line Defenders](#) criticized India’s use of counter-terrorism laws to target civil society. Rana Ayyub published a related analysis [Behind The Facade Of Modi’s ‘New Kashmir’](#).

A new book, [Pleasure Gardens: Blackouts and the Logic of Crisis in Kashmir](#), explores the relationship of Israel’s occupation of Palestine to India’s occupation of IAK in the context of the 2019 blackout/lockdown in IAK. Hafsa Kanjwal published a related analysis of [How India is implementing the 'Israel model' in Kashmir](#), which prominent Indian public figures [continue to explicitly call for](#).

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